

# The Daily Astorian.

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## GENERAL HAZEN'S WEATHER DIRECTORY.

For at least a dozen years we have studied with interest the extraordinary productions of the government printing office at Washington. Nothing has come to hand up to date more remarkable than a small book just published at the expense of the taxpayers by Gen. W. B. Hazen. It is entitled "Weather Proverbs," and it consists of about one hundred and fifty pages of dead-end literature fit to make your hair curl.

It seems to have been the ambition of Gen. Hazen to go down to posterity as the author of a complete dictionary of proverbs, jingles, superstitions, witticisms, and fallacies relating to weather prognostication. He sent out circulars to all his observers, and to many other men and women in different parts of the world, requesting contributions. The result is a volume "prepared under the direction of Brig. and Br. L. Maj. Gen. W. B. Hazen, chief signal officer of the army, by H. H. C. Danwoody," and "published by authority of the secretary of War."

In its preface, Gen. Hazen asserts that the weather forecasts of the signal office "are not based upon the proverbs here given, but wholly upon observations and generalizations accepted by meteorologists." Nobody will be quite prepared to accept this statement. If the proverbs, signs, and prognostics contained in Gen. Hazen's dictionary are not used in the business of the office, why does he spend his time and the people's money in collecting and publishing them? We should prefer to believe that Gen. Hazen's predictions are based on the indications alphabetically presented in his astonishing little book.

The very first item of weather information is under the heading "Ass," and is as follows:

"When the ass begins to bray,

Be sure we shall have a rainy day."

Proceeding down the alphabet, we learn from Gen. Hazen that "bears and cubs are always restless before rain"; that "when cats sneeze it is a sign of rain, and when cats are snoring foul weather follows"; that if a cat washes her head behind her ear, it is also a sign of rain; that rain is indicated if a dog howls when somebody leaves the house; that "when the spaniel sleeps it indicates rain"; that "pigs, uneasy, grunting, and huddling together, indicate cold"; besides many other equally interesting things. Here are a few of Gen. Hazen's facts about animals:

"Bulls.—If the bull leads the van in going to pasture, rain must be expected; but if he is careless and allows the cows to precede him, the weather will be uncertain."

"Donkeys.—When the donkey blows his horn

"Tis time to house your hay and corn."

"Cattle.—When the cow stops and shakes her foot, it indicates that there is bad weather behind her."

The chief signal officer has also studied the habits of birds with great benefit to science.

"Cocks.—Cocks are said to elap their wings in an unusual manner before rain, and hens to rub in the dust and seem very uneasy."

"If the cock moult before the hen,

We shall have weather thick and thin,

But if the hen moult before the cock,

We shall have weather hard as a block."

"Peacocks.—When the peacock loudly bows,

Soon we'll have both rain and squalls."

The compiler of the dictionary seems to be uncertain just how to interpret the ominous voices of owls. He says that "owls hoot at night, except fair weather." Moreover, "when an owl hoots or screeches sitting on the top of a house, or by the side of a window, it is said to foretell death."

And he proceeds to remark:

"The owl, as Virgil justly observes,

is more noisy the change of weather,

and as it often happens that patients with lingering diseases die at the change of weather, so the owl seems, by a mistaken association of ideas, to foretell the calamity. Both the screech owl and the owl seem to be allied to among the harmful birds in Spencer's "Fairy Queen."

This is very philosophical. But Gen. Hazen's suggestions are not always gloomy; they are often cheerful and sometimes even sportive:

"If the sky beyond the clouds is blue,

Be glad, there is a picnic for you."

"When there is enough clear sky to patch a Dutchman's breeches expect fair weather."

Bubbles of air over clam beds, according to Gen. Hazen, indicate rain. If a Sunday sunset is obscured, there will be rain before Wednesday. If the skin on the belly of the catfish is unusually thick, look out for a cold winter. He has discovered that fish bite best "when the moon is in the tail;" but "if the moon runs low, expect warm weather." If eels are very lively, it is a sign of rain.

We might fill columns with quotations from this surprising volume, which seems to have been prepared by the joint efforts of the chief signal officer, Zerkel, and Uncle Remus. Here are a few more of Gen. Hazen's prose axioms:

"Cutlets, with their many legs,

swimming on the top of the water,

prognosticate a storm."

"A winter's fog will freeze a dog."

"When gnats dance in February the husbandman becomes a beggar."

"The rainbow has but a bad character; she ever commands the rain to cease."

"The color of a frog changing from yellow to reddish indicates rain."

"When a star winks the moon and another chases her astern, tempestuous weather will follow. The phenomenon is probably styled a big star chasing the moon."

"When snow falls in the mud it remains all winter."

"If the geese on St. Martin's day stand on ice, they will walk in mud on Christmas."

"St. Patrick's Day the warm side of a stone turns up, and the broad-back goose begins to lay."

"Epidemic is a name for epidemic disorders occurring among animals, of which we have many and various instances on record. The state of

the electrometer and other meteorological instruments should be carefully examined during the prevalence of such pestilence."

"Human hair (curls) curls and kinks at the approach of a storm, and straightens after the storm."

It will be observed that Gen. Hazen does not confine himself strictly to the weather, but throws in many lumps of wisdom suitable to the needs of the fishermen, the horse doctor, the barber, and the undertaker. His poetical department includes selections from Virgil, Shakespeare, and other favorite authors, besides many bits that are apparently original, either with himself or with Danwoody. For example:

"When fleas do very many grow,

Then 'twill surely rain or snow."

"When eager bites the thirsty flea,

Clouds and rain you sure shall see."

"A fly on your nose, you slap and it goes,

If it comes back again, it will bring a good rain."

"Onion skins very thin,

Mild winter coming in;

Onion skins thick and tough,

Coming winter cold and rough."

"When the stars begin to huddle,

The earth will soon become a puddle."

Altogether, the appearance of this book marks an epoch in the government publishing business. In spite of Gen. Hazen's disclaimer, it throws a light on the mysterious methods of the bureau, as well as on the long journeys of inspection which the chief signal officer finds it necessary to take during the summer season of the year. He does not travel across the continent for pleasure merely. He goes because he feels it to be his duty to discover for himself whether the ass is braying in the Ohio valley, whether the chipmunk is abundant in the lower lake region, and whether the cows are shaking their hind feet in the extreme northwest. If he finds that such is the case, Gen. Hazen knows that we are going to have rain.

Fraternal Ties.

Judge Chewso arose to ask for information. He wanted to know how strong the fraternal ties of such a club should be considered. How far was he obligated? "Brother Chewso," replied the president, "I will read the foreword for your benefit: First—All meet here on terms of equality, but do member who blacks stoves an' saws wood, an' an' expected to be so familiar as to ask the barber a'ning \$17 a week to lend him his toothpick. Second—If you find a brudder in distress, aid him. Dar am no particular objection to takin' a mortgage on his stove in case he wants to borrow fo' dollars in cash, but give him a little show befo' fo' closein'." Third—Excuse a brudder's faults as far as you kin, but arter he has spit on your butes about three times, you kin conclude dat he aches to be licked. Fourth—Speak well of each other; avoid wrangles and slander; be ready to give good advice; encourage sobriety an' industry, but don't let a man kick yer dog simply because he sits on de stool neer you in Paradise Hall."

—Detroit Free Press.

A Human Giraffe.


The tallest man in the country is said to be Henry Thurston, who first beheld the light of day near Jefferson City, Mo., but who now owns a cattle ranch in Texas. Mr. Thurston is seven feet seven and a half inches tall, and as he is thin and gaunt, and invariably wears a stove-pipe hat, he never fails to produce a positively startling effect upon the beholder. Moreover, he has acquired several habits of posture which add to the impression. For instance, if he happens to feel tired when walking in the street he is accustomed to rest himself by dropping his arms over a swinging sign and reclining his chin upon it.

Mrs. Stouff, of Portland, who is charged with robbing her employer of \$2,000 is likely to create a sensation if ever brought to trial. The Telegram says: Under advice of counsel and interested friends, she refuses to see reporters or make any statement of her case. There are some peculiar features attending the prosecution that will probably prevent the case from coming to trial. "Oregon fruit raisers, we have this whole vast country from Portland to St. Paul to supply with fruit. Clear up your old orchards and pay more attention to your trees. Dakota is big enough for three states. I was astonished at its vastness. Just imagine an immense and almost boundless plain of clear prairie ready for the plow and no possibility of raising any fruit on it."

"A Nebraska widow with twenty-one children is advertising for a husband." There is great virtue in printers' ink; it has brought fortunes to men and women; but we don't believe a double column advertisement inserted next to reading matter every day for six months would bring a husband to a widow with twenty-one children—unless the latter are kept in the background, or underground, or somewhere. We dislike to go back on advertising, but the line must be drawn somewhere.

One candid man in the Washington Territory legislature got up last week and stated that the body of which he was a member was passing bills which were not understood, and that he for one would quit voting for bills he did not understand.

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All sizes, at Portland Prices, in Stock.

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Is not a "cure all," it is a blood-purifier and tonic. Impurity of the blood poisons the system, deranges the circulation, and thus induces many disorders, known by different names to distinguish them according to effects, but being really branches or phases of that great generic disorder, **Impurity of Blood.** Such are Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Liver Complaint, Constipation, Nervous Debility, Headache, Backache, General Weakness, Heart Disease, Dropsy, Kidney Disease, Piles, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Scrofula, Skin Disorders, Pimples, Ulcers, Scaldings, &c. **King of the Blood** prevents and cures these by attacking the cause, impurity of the blood. Chemists and physicians agree in calling it "the most genuine and efficient preparation for the purpose." Sold by Druggists, \$1 per bottle. See testimonials, directions, &c., in pamphlet, "Treatise on Diseases of the Blood," wrapped around each bottle. **D. RANSOM, SON & CO., Prop.** Buffalo, N. Y.

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FREE COACH TO THE HOUSE.

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**CHAS. WALLMAN.**

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